

File #

Article 10: the Library. Debbie Bornheimer has probably earned her ticket to sainthood for this one. As faithful town meeting goers know, there's been a move afoot for several years to get a better library built. When the school committee decided to close the Alden School buildings a couple of years ago, library trustees moved quickly to consider remodeling and using the Upper Building as a new library instead of expanding the existing one. It's an idea that has caught on, although it isn't without some opponents.

Going into town meeting next Saturday, the library trustees have finally gotten town hall behind the Alden School plan. This article is backed by the selectmen, the fiscal advisory and finance committees. In exchange for a town investment of \$3 million, there's a commitment of federal funds, an all-but-official pledge of state dollars, and private contributions largely marshalled by the unsinkable Bornheimer. Opponents are challenging the building's structural capacity for use as a library, but there seems to be widespread consensus that 1995 is the Year of the Library. Because town meeting will be asked to authorize borrowing the \$3 million, passage of Article 10 requires a two-thirds vote.

And please, folks who plan to come to town meeting just to vote on the library project, don't get up and leave *en masse* as soon as Article 10 passes. It's poor political etiquette.